

CONFIDENTIAL

27 December 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

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1. On the morning of 24 December 1948 [REDACTED] Assistant Director for Operations, telephoned and invited my attention to an article in the morning Washington Post with reference to [REDACTED] suit against [REDACTED]. He advised me that personnel of FBIB should be instructed to reply "no comment" if they were queried with reference to this matter. I immediately prepared the attached dispatch slip and routed it to all Division Chiefs of FBIB.

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2. At about 9:45 a.m. [REDACTED] entered my office, obviously very excited, nervous and angry, and immediately stated, "Colonel, I hope by God you have a nice Christmas because you sure as hell have spoiled mine", or words to that effect. I asked [REDACTED] to have a seat and explain his actions. He seated himself and continued to let off steam in loud, angry and profane terms. He stated, "I want you to know that the God damned note directing me to make no comment about the [REDACTED] case is an insult and nobody is going to muzzle me. By God, I owe my allegiance to the American people and I'll talk whenever I please", or words to that effect.

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3. I attempted to calm [REDACTED] and explained in a very friendly manner that the note was not intended to "muzzle" anyone and further that it was merely designed first of all to protect individuals from violating their secrecy agreement if they should be queried by unauthorized persons and, secondly, to keep our organization out of the newspapers as much as possible. I also went into some length about my feelings that a great deal of harm had been done our organization by information published in the newspapers which had been obtained from personnel in the organization who made these statements to the press recklessly and without information to substantiate them. I advised [REDACTED] that if he had any information to relate that he could tell me, or our Security Branch personnel, or the FBI, or that if he was subpoenaed to testify in court, that was a different matter. [REDACTED], seemingly having lost all sense of objectivity, continued to berate FBIB by saying, "This agency was being run by persons not loyal to the United States Government when you came and is still being run by those same people. Some of them have gone, it is true, but they have just reorganized and are as strongly entrenched as ever", or words to that effect.

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4. I told [REDACTED] that I had listened to this kind of report from [REDACTED] on other occasions, that I had invited him to supply evidence to [REDACTED]

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This document part of classified integrated file. NAME [REDACTED] prior to individual classification action.

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support his contention, and that he had supplied three messages which are attached to a Memorandum for the Record, dated 11 June 1947, and which in my opinion did not substantiate his contention. [redacted] thought this was perfectly ridiculous that these messages did not prove his point and continued in a very disrespectful and insubordinate manner to argue and berate the organization. I then asked him if he could supply me with any additional information to substantiate his charges, to which he replied, "What good would it do to give you any information", or words to that effect, which I interpreted as a clear implication that I knowingly and willfully shielded persons in this organization not loyal to the United States. It being obvious that [redacted] was excited and was making these statements in anger, I closed the interview without further discussion.

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5. On 27 December 1948 I summoned [redacted] to my office and conferred with him again in the presence of [redacted] Deputy Chief, FBIB. I advised [redacted] that I regarded his disrespectful and insubordinate conduct on the 24th quite seriously and realizing that he had conducted himself in this manner while angry I wanted to review what had transpired with [redacted] as a witness, following which I related in substance the foregoing and asked [redacted] if he cared to refute any of my statements or to modify them in any way. In reply [redacted] stated that he regretted that he had taken God's name in vain, but that otherwise he did not care to refute or modify the statements.

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6. I then reviewed again briefly the necessity of avoiding publicity and explained again the intent of my original dispatch slip. I further advised him of the danger of calling someone a Communist without supplying information to back it up. [redacted] then stated, "I didn't say anything about people being Communists. I just said they aren't loyal to the United States", or words to that effect. I again asked him if he could substantiate his contention, and he could not except to refer to the previously mentioned messages attached to Memorandum for the Record, dated 11 June 1947. I then asked [redacted] if he really felt that I had knowingly and willfully shielded persons in this organization not loyal to the United States Government, to which he replied, "All I can say is that I have given you information before and that I have seen no results", or words to that effect.

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7. I then advised [redacted] that I did not consider that anything could be gained by a pursuit of this discussion and that I would arrange at an early date for him to interview someone in our Security Branch and offer for the record any information he had on persons in this organization not loyal to the United States Government. (In a conference with [redacted] Assistant to the Executive for IAS, on 27 December 1948, a conference was arranged). I strongly advised [redacted] to review the obligations which he assumed in becoming an employee of the Central

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Intelligence Agency before disregarding my advice not to make statements concerning this organization without proper authority. In conclusion I advised [] as follows:

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a. That I considered his disrespectful and insubordinate conduct to be sufficient grounds for his immediate removal from this organization.

b. That this was the second time in which he had behaved himself in a similar manner in my office (the other instance being on or about 1 June 1947).

c. That it was my understanding that his job and his income were very important to him and that the loss would be a very serious thing, not only for him but for his family.

d. That I would not under any circumstances tolerate any repetition of this or similar offenses, and that any such conduct would necessitate my recommending his immediate removal from this organization.

L. K. WHITE

I certify that I witnessed the conversation between Colonel White and [] on 27 December 1948 and that the foregoing is an accurate description of what transpired.

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Attachment
Dispatch Slip

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